

Borough of
otherwise



Bunhebed
Launceston

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR THE YEAR
1965

Health Area Office,
LAUNCESTON, Cornwall.

W. PATERSON, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
Medical Officer of Health.

BOROUGH OF DUNHEVED otherwise LAUNCESTON

A N N U A L R E P O R T

of the

M E D I C A L O F F I C E R O F H E A L T H

for the year 1965

Health Area Office,
Launceston,
Cornwall.

WILLIAM PATERSON, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
Medical Officer of Health



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BOROUGH OF DUNHEVED otherwise LAUNCESTON.

Members of the Public Health Committee - 1965.

The Worshipful the Mayor of Launceston -
Councillor J.D.Rashley
Councillor C.J.MOORE (Chairman)
Councillor Mrs.J.C.HICKS (Vice-Chairman)
Alderman W.F.HENDER
Councillor S.G.ADAMS
Councillor E.HORE
Councillor F.JORDAN
Councillor H.C.GOLDING

- - - - -

Public Health Officers of the Local Authority:

Medical Officer of Health :

W.PATERSON, M.B.,Ch.B.,D.P.H.

also holds appointments of

Medical Officer of Health : Launceston Rural District Council
 Bude/Stratton Urban District Council
 Stratton Rural District Council
 Camelford Rural District Council

Assistant County Medical Officer, Area No. 6 - Cornwall County Council
School Medical Officer - Cornwall County Council

Chief Public Health Inspector :

G.E.GIFFORD, M.A.P.H.I.

Additional Public Health Inspectors :

J.G.HUGHES, M.A.P.H.I.

W.L.JUDD, M.A.P.H.I.

SUMMARY OF VITAL STATISTICS

Area (in acres)	2182
Population	4570
No. of separate dwellings occupied :-	
Domestic dwellings	1497
Shops and dwellings combined	66
Rateable value, 1965	£161384
Product of ld. rate	£636. 0. 3.31d.

LIVE BIRTHS

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Rate per 1,000 estimated population</u>
Legitimate	80	41	39	18.599
Illegitimate	4	3	1	
<u>STILLBIRTHS</u>	1	-	1	11.76 per 1,000 total births
<u>DEATHS</u> (all causes)	105	50	55	22.97

Puerperal and post-abortive
sepsis Nil
Other Puerperal causes Nil

INFANT MORTALITY

(Deaths under 1 year, per 1,000 live births)

N I L

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	6	7	13
Deaths from Measles (all ages)		N I L	
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)		N I L	
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years)		N I L	

Health Area Office,
Launceston.

To: The Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the
Borough of Dunheved, otherwise Launceston.

Mr. Mayor, Aldermen, Mrs. Hicks and Gentlemen :

I have the honour to present the Annual Report of the Medical
Officer of Health for the year 1965.

Deaths during the year increased by 35, while births increased
by 17, compared with the previous year. This continued the adverse
balance of deaths over births, but the estimated mid-year population
showed an increase of 20. There were no infant deaths, but one
stillbirth was recorded. Heart disease, vascular lesions of the nervous
system and cancer, in that order, were once again at the head of the list
of causes of death.

A sharp outbreak of dysentery due to the organism *Shigella Sonnei*
(*Sonne dysentery*) occurred in the last quarter of the year. This is the
mild variety of dysentery, although uncomfortable and distressing to the
sufferer. In all, 219 cases occurred in the Borough between September and
the end of the year. Although, with a gastro-intestinal infection of this
type, danger of spread by articles of food and drink is obvious, infection
appeared to be by direct transmission from person to person. The incidence
of other forms of infectious disease was low.

During the year, the routine work of the Department was maintained,
meat inspection continuing to be an important feature, while the inspection
of premises registered under the Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act,
1963, begun during the previous year, formed a considerable additional duty
in the year under review. In the housing field, a start was made on Blocks
A, B and D of the Tower Street - Northgate Street Redevelopment Scheme, and
work continued throughout the year.

I must express my thanks to Mr. G.E. Gifford, the Council's Chief
Public Health Inspector, for his valuable co-operation in all aspects of
our work together and in the preparation of this report. Mr. Hughes and Mr.
Judd, the Additional Public Health Inspectors, who left the Council's service
during the current year, continued their valuable work during the year under
review. The Council's other Departments have continued their willing help.
I am grateful to the General Medical Practitioners for their co-operation.

It is a pleasure to acknowledge, once again, the continued interest
and encouragement of the members of the Council and, in particular, of the
Chairman and members of the Public Health Committee.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

WILLIAM PATERSON

Medical Officer of Health

AREA (in acres) 2,182. This ancient Borough is the natural centre of the agricultural community in North Cornwall and adjoining parts of Devon. It has important markets and some light industry.

POPULATION - The Registrar General has estimated the population for the mid-year 1965 to be 4,570, an increase of 20 on the previous year. The "natural" increase in the population is the excess of births over deaths. In 1965 there were 21 fewer births than deaths.

DEATHS - The total number of deaths assigned to the Borough for the year was 105 compared with 70 in 1964. The crude death rate, based on the mid-year population, was 22.97 compared with 15.384 in the previous year. The following table has been compiled for comparison with previous years :

<u>Years</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Recorded Rate</u>
1961	82	41	41	18.55
1962	77	37	40	17.07
1963	81	39	42	17.96
1964	70	42	28	15.384
1965	105	50	55	22.97

In order to compare the mortality in the District with the mortality for England and Wales, it is necessary to make a correction to allow for the difference in age and sex distribution of the two populations. This is done by applying to the crude death rate of the District an "Area comparability factor" which has been estimated by the Registrar General as 0.62 for this Borough.

The standardised Death Rate, therefore, is 14.24 which may be compared with that of 11.5 (provisional) for England and Wales.

BIRTHS - The number of live births assigned to this Borough was 84 compared with 67 in 1964. The rate per thousand of the population was 18.599. When the Registrar General's Area Comparability Factor for births (1.09) is applied to this figure, the Standardised Birth Rate of 20.27 for this Borough compares with 18.1 (provisional) for England and Wales.

STILLBIRTHS - The number of stillbirths during 1965 was one.

ILLEGITIMATE BIRTHS - There were four illegitimate births assigned to the Borough during the year, the same as in 1964.

MATERNAL MORTALITY - No case of death during pregnancy has been recorded.

INFANT MORTALITY - There were no infant deaths in 1965.

NOTE :

Vital Statistics. It is important that too much weight should not be attached to small variations in these rates from one year to the other, particularly where relatively small populations are involved - attention should rather be paid to the trend of these rates over a period of years.

MORTALITY TABLE

Classified in accordance with 36 headings based on the Abbreviated List of the International Statistical Classifications of Disease, Injuries and Causes of Death, 1955.

<u>Cause of Death</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory	-	-	-
2. Tuberculosis, other	-	-	-
3. Syphilitic disease	-	-	-
4. Diphtheria	-	-	-
5. Whooping Cough	-	-	-
6. Meningococcal infection	-	-	-
7. Acute Poliomyelitis	-	-	-
8. Measles	-	-	-
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases	-	-	-
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach	1	1	2
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	2	-	2
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast	-	2	2
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus	-	-	-
14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	3	4	7
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia	-	-	-
16. Diabetes	-	-	-
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system	15	14	29
18. Coronary disease, angina	7	11	18
19. Hypertension with heart disease	5	4	9
20. Other heart disease	2	5	7
21. Other circulatory disease	1	2	3
22. Influenza	-	-	-
23. Pneumonia	-	2	2
24. Bronchitis	1	1	2
25. Other diseases of respiratory system	-	-	-
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	2	-	2
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	1	-	1
28. Nephritis and nephrosis	-	-	-
29. Hyperplasia of prostate	-	-	-
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	-	-	-
31. Congenital malformations	-	1	1
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases	7	8	15
33. Motor vehicle accidents	3	-	3
34. All other accidents	-	-	-
35. Suicide	-	-	-
36. Homicide and operations of war	-	-	-
	50	55	105

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES

General Medical Services

General medical services under Part IV of the National Health Service Act, 1946, are provided by medical practitioners resident in the district and in adjoining districts, all of whom undertake maternity medical services.

County Council Services.

- I Health Department : The County Council is the local health authority for the purposes of Part III of the National Health Service Act, 1946, and provides the following services in the district :-
- (a) Midwifery and Home Nursing. Nurse-midwives are provided to attend general nursing and midwifery cases in the home.
 - (b) Health Visiting. HealthVisitors are available to give advice on health matters in the home or at the clinic. Originally concerned with the care of mothers and young children, which is still their basic function, they are increasingly concerned with other age groups, particularly the aged. Some health visitors combine the work with general nursing and midwifery. All act also as school nurses.
 - (c) Child Welfare Centre. A Child Welfare Clinic is held at the Health Clinic, Launceston, three times each month.
 - (d) Dental Clinic. Priority dental treatment for expectant and nursing mothers and pre-school children is available at the Dental Clinic at the Health Clinic, Launceston.
 - (e) Vaccination and Immunisation. Facilities for vaccination against smallpox and immunisation against diphtheria, whooping cough and tetanus, and for poliomyelitis vaccination, are provided at the Child Welfare Clinic or by the supply of materials to the family doctor.
 - (f) Home Help Service. Home helps are employed to provide domestic help for households in certain circumstances, a charge being made for this service according to the means of the person concerned.
 - (g) Ambulance Service. A service of ambulances for the conveyance of sick, accident and emergency cases is provided. For sitting cases, utilecon sitting case vehicles are used. When appropriate, some such cases are carried by the Hospital Car Service, a voluntary organisation. Day-to-day administration of the service is carried out from Ambulance Control, Bodmin.

(h) Prevention of Illness, Care and After-care. A full-time tuberculosis health visitor is provided for the care and after-care of tuberculous persons. District nurses are available to assist in the treatment of such persons when required by the Chest Physician or family doctor. Routine tuberculin testing and, if necessary, B.C.G. vaccination (i.e. vaccination against tuberculosis) is provided for senior school children. Certain special investigations are carried out in other types of illness by district health visitors, and health education is carried out by the County's medical and nursing staff.

(i) Mental Health. The County Council has certain responsibilities in connection with the ascertainment of mental ill-health and mental deficiency, with the provision of statutory supervision, etc. for mental defectives living in the community, and with the provision of after-care following treatment for mental illness. The Mental Welfare Officer for the district works from the Health Area Office, Launceston.

II Education Department. As local education authority, the County Council is responsible for the School Health Service, which provides the following :-

Periodic Medical Inspection of pupils
Cleanliness Surveys of pupils
Dental Inspection and treatment of pupils
Ascertainment of handicapped pupils in need of special education
Treatment Clinic, Health Clinic, Launceston :-
Dental Clinic by appointment
Child Guidance Clinic, twice monthly at Launceston Clinic

III Welfare Department. This service is concerned with the welfare of the aged, and with that of various categories of handicapped persons. It is concerned also with the provision of temporary accommodation in certain circumstances for persons in urgent need thereof. The Welfare Officer for the district works from the Health Area Office, Launceston.

Hospital Services

The South Western Regional Hospital Board is the hospital authority for the area.

Launceston Hospital provides in-patient and out-patient facilities in the district. Patients are referred also to hospitals in Plymouth and elsewhere. Cases of infectious disease are admitted to the Scott Isolation Hospital, Plymouth, and tuberculosis patients to Didworthy and Tehidy Sanatoria. Mental hospital accommodation is provided by St. Lawrence's Hospital and Laninval House, Bodmin and Moorfields Hospital, Ivybridge, Devon.

An Orthopaedic Clinic is held weekly at the Health Clinic, Launceston, and a Physiotherapy Clinic at Tavistock Hospital. The Chest Clinic is held at Launceston Hospital.

An Ophthalmic Clinic for school and pre-school children is held periodically at the Launceston Health Clinic. A specialist Ante-natal clinic is held in Launceston each week.

Laboratory Facilities.

These are provided by the Public Health Laboratory, Plymouth, to which specimens for bacteriological examination are sent.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT

WATER SUPPLIES

The Borough of Launceston comes within the area served by the East Cornwall Water Board. The water, from an upland surface gathering ground, is soft and slightly acid, and the average daily requirement of 200,000 gallons is adequately met.

Out of a total of 1,563 dwellings with a population of 4,570 persons, 1,555 dwellings and 4,547 persons are supplied with water from public water mains.

No stand pipes are used in the Borough

SAMPLING

The following is a summary of reports of water samples taken in the area :-

Public Supplies

I By East Cornwall Water Board

(a) Untreated Water

Chemical Samples : No reports received.

Bacteriological Samples :

<u>No. of Samples taken</u>	<u>No. of Samples containing Coliform Bacilli.</u>	<u>No. of Samples containing Coliform Bacilli Type 1 (faecal)</u>
16	16	16

Note: Of the samples containing Coliform Type 1 (faecal), counts were uniformly low, with the exception of one taken in June.

(b) Treated Water

Chemical Samples : One sample taken 28.9.65 - Summary as follows :-

pH - 6.1 Total Hardness - 10

"This sample is practically clear and bright in appearance. It has a faintly acid reaction due to its content of free carbon dioxide with very low carbonate alkalinity. The sample contains a very appreciable trace of zinc, likely to be derived from action on a

galvanised pipe, and a minute trace of iron. The water is very soft in character with a fairly low content of mineral and saline constituents. It is of a high standard of organic quality.

These results indicate a water which, from the aspect of the chemical analysis, is pure and wholesome in character and suitable for drinking and domestic uses."

Bacteriological Samples

<u>No. of Samples taken</u>	<u>No. of Samples containing Coliform Bacilli</u>	<u>No. of Samples containing Coliform Bacilli Type 1 (faecal)</u>
17	0	0

II By Health Department, Launceston Borough Council (from distribution system - treated water)

Bacteriological Samples :

<u>No. of Samples taken</u>	<u>No. of Samples containing Coliform Bacilli</u>	<u>No. of Samples containing Coliform Bacilli Type 1 (faecal)</u>
20	-	-

It is the routine practice of your Health Department to send a copy of each bacteriological report on these samples, to the Chief Engineer, East Cornwall Water Board, for his information.

Private Supplies

- (a) Complaints were again received during the year concerning the quality of water from a domestic well serving two adjoining properties. Separate pumps were used by each premises. The water drawn by one house appeared quite different in character from that drawn by the other, whose occupant had no complaint.

The pump had been renewed and following this no complaints were received for a time but later in the year water from one pump again became undrinkable and gave off an unpleasant smell. The well was opened up and it was found that water from the area immediately surrounding it was finding an entry into the well, and running slowly down one side to the exact point of intake of this particular pump. The area was concreted, a new overflow from the pump was laid, and no further trouble was reported.

SWIMMING BATHS

The swimming bath at Coronation Park is of the open air type. It has a capacity of approximately 100,000 gallons of water which is filtered by the circulating method and chlorinated by an automatic dosing plant.

Twenty samples of water were taken for bacteriological analysis. One of these samples, taken in May, contained a small number of coliform organisms and chlorination was stepped up accordingly.

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

Launceston is largely served by the separate or dual system of sewerage, whereby surface water is excluded from the foul sewers. Only seven properties remain which still use conservancy methods.

There are two sewage disposal works, a small one at Scarne built by the Army Authorities during the war and modernised in 1959, and a much larger one at St. Leonards which has functioned in its new form since April, 1963 following complete reconstruction and enlargement.

DISINFECTION

Current and terminal disinfection by means of gaseous and liquid disinfectants is carried out when infectious disease is notified, and the circumstances of the case require it.

DISINFESTATION

Disinfestation of premises is carried out when required. Protective spraying against cluster fly in roof spaces of houses known to be recurrently infested has again given good results.

PUBLIC CLEANSING

Bi-weekly collections are made of household refuse and weekly collections made of refuse and paper from trade premises. A new, compression type refuse loader was purchased at the beginning of the year and this has increased efficiency.

PUBLIC CONVENIENCES

The last public convenience without washing facilities was reconstructed in 1965 and provided with them.

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963

Inspection of premises registered under this Act continued during the year. There is a marked readiness locally, on the part of occupiers, to comply with the requirements of this Act though in many cases this involves considerable expense.

RODENT CONTROL

- 9 -

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949.

	Type of Property				Agricultural
	Non-Agricultural				
	Local Authority	Dwelling Houses Including Council	All other Including Business Premises	Totals of Cols. (1) (2) and (3)	
No. of Properties in Local Authority District	7	1553	650	2210	34
Properties Inspected following Notification	3	11	11	25	4
Infestation of Properties by:-					
COMMON RAT Major	-	-	-	-	1
Minor	1	11	7	19	4
SHIP RAT Major	-	-	-	-	-
Minor	-	-	-	-	-
HOUSE MOUSE Major	-	-	-	-	-
Minor	1	2	5	8	-
Properties Inspected in course of Survey under the Act :-	7	50	92	149	12
No. of such properties found to be infested by :-					
COMMON RAT Major	-	-	-	-	-
Minor	1	3	4	8	2
SHIP RAT Major	-	-	-	-	-
Minor	-	-	-	-	-
HOUSE MOUSE Major	-	-	-	-	-
Minor	1	1	2	4	-
Properties otherwise inspected (e.g. when visited primarily for some other purpose	-	-	-	-	-
No. of Infested Properties	4	17	18	39	7
No. of Block Control Schemes carried out	-	1	-	1	-

POISONS USED :- Sorex 17 lbs. 12 ozs. Zinc Phosphide 10 ozs. Arsenic 6 ozs.

HOUSING

1.	Estimated population	...	...	...	...	4570
2.	(a) Total number of permanent houses at 31st December, 1965	...	...	...	...	1563
	(b) Total number of permanent houses owned by local authority at 31st December, 1965	...	...	...	...	299
3.	(a) New Houses erected -					
	(i) by local authority	...	...	...	...	Nil
	(ii) by private enterprise	...	...	...	...	54
	(b) Number of applicants on housing list at the end of the year	...	...	...	...	125
4.	Number of houses specially provided for, and occupied by, people of pensionable age -					
	(a) Receiving contribution from County Council for Welfare Services	...	...	...	...	Nil
	(b) Other houses	...	...	...	...	Nil
5.	Houses demolished -					
	(a) in clearance areas -					
	(i) Houses unfit for human habitation	...				9
	(ii) Houses included by reason of bad arrangement, etc.	...	...	...	...	Nil
	(iii) Houses on land acquired under Section 43(2) Housing Act, 1957	...	...	...	...	5
	(b) not in clearance areas -					
	(i) As a result of formal or informal procedure under Section 16 or Section 17 (1) Housing Act, 1957	...	...	...	...	Nil
	(ii) Local Authority owned houses certified unfit by the Medical Officer of Health					Nil
	(iii) Houses unfit for human habitation where action has been taken under local Acts					Nil
	(iv) Unfit houses included in unfitness orders					Nil

6. Unfit houses closed -

(a) Under Section 16(4), 17(1) and 35(1), Housing Act, 1957	...	...	...	...	Nil
(b) Under Section 17(3) and 26, Housing Act, 1957	...	...	...	...	Nil
(c) Parts of buildings closed under Section 18, Housing Act, 1957	...	...	...	...	Nil

7. Unfit houses made fit and houses in which
defects were remedied -

	<u>By Owner</u>				<u>By Local Authority</u>
(a) after informal action by local authority	6	-
(b) after formal notice under -					
(i) Public Health Acts	-	-
(ii) Sections 9 and 16 Housing Acts, 1957	-	-
(c) under Section 24, Housing Act, 1957	...			-	-

8. Unfit houses in temporary use (Housing
Act, 1957) -

(a) Retained for temporary accommodation -

(i) under Section 48	...	...	...	...	Nil
(ii) under Section 17 (2)	...	...	...	...	Nil
(iii) under Section 46	Nil

(b) Licensed for temporary occupation
under Section 34 or 53

...	Nil
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9. Purchase of houses by agreement -

Houses in clearance area other than those included
in confirmed clearance orders or compulsory
purchase orders, purchased during the year.

Nil

10. Housing Acts 1949 - 1965

Improvement Grants -

(a) Discretionary -

Number of applications received -				
dwellings	...	...	...	1
Number of applications approved - dwellings	...	...	...	1
Total approved expenditure	...	...	...	£1,645
Total amount of grants made	...	...	...	Nil

(b) Standard -

Number of applications received -				
dwellings	...	...	...	12
Number of applications approved -				
dwellings	...	...	...	12
Total approved expenditure	...	...	...	£1675 (Max. grant permitted)
Total amount of grants made	...	...	...	£1180 (10 dwellings)

Note - 5 grants approved to 31st December, 1965 were unpaid at that date.
 Number of applications for standard grants to 31st December, 1965
 total 66. Two applications for grant were withdrawn after approval.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

(i) Classified Number of Food Premises in the Area

<u>Type of Premises</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Visits</u>	<u>Defects Found</u>	<u>Remedied</u>
Butchers	10	9	4	4
Small Goods Factories	2	12	-	-
Bakehouses	1	9	-	-
Bakers' Shops	2	9	-	-
Cafes and Hotels	10	21	3	3
Dairies	6	19	-	-
Egg Packing Stations	1	1	-	-
Fish and Chip Shops	2	4	-	-
Greengrocers	5	2	1	1
Grocers	16	23	1	1
Poulterers	1	5	1	1
Slaughterhouses	2	166	-	-
School Meals Kitchens	4	1	-	-
Hospital Kitchens	2	1	-	-
Fresh Fish Shops	1	1	-	-

(ii) Classified Number of Food Premises Registered under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955 or under Local Acts, and the number of Dairies registered under the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949 to 1959.

Premises registered for Storage and Sale of Ice Cream	27
Premises registered for the Sale of Fish and Chips	2
Premises registered for Sausage Manufacturing, etc.	8
Premises registered as Dairies	6

(iii) Inspection of Registered Food Premises.

The following inspections of registered food premises were carried out :-

<u>Premises</u>	<u>Number of Inspections</u>
Fish and Chip Shops	4
Sausage Making Establishments, etc.	12
Ice Cream Premises	44
Dairies	19

Ten informal notices were served for minor contraventions of the Food Hygiene Regulations.

Contamination of Foodstuff.

Four complaints of alleged contamination of foodstuffs were received from the public and investigations were carried out as follows :-

(1) In April, an inspector on duty at the Abattoir noted that a consignment of sides of bacon, each side protected only by a thin cover, was being transported in a lorry which had contained china clay and had not been swept out. The unloading of the bacon, which was to have taken place locally, was stopped, the consignment removed to a clean vehicle and taken to a place where it was carefully examined for any contamination by the china clay. No visible contamination was found, but the china clay was bacteriologically examined and was reported as being inert and sterile. It was considered that no further action was necessary, but the firm concerned were warned against carrying similar consignments in such vehicles.

(2) In July, a complaint was received that a loaf delivered in the Launceston area from a neighbouring town had, on being sliced, revealed the presence of a coin, i.e. one half-penny. Very careful investigations were made, but, as it was felt to be impossible to prove conclusively that the coin was in fact in the loaf at the time of delivery, it was decided that no further action was justified other than bringing the event to the notice of the firm concerned.

(3) In August, 1965, a portion of sausage which had, when eaten, been found to contain a metal clip, was brought to the Health Department. The sausages had been manufactured locally and delivered by a local butcher to a purchaser in an area outside Launceston. Since the place of sale was not within the Borough the matter was turned over to the Officer of the Cornwall County Council responsible for administering the Food and Drugs Act on their behalf. Legal proceedings were taken by Cornwall County Council in this case and a conviction was recorded.

(4) In September a complaint was made that a nail had been found in a blackcurrant tart purchased at the local branch of a large bakery firm operating in the south-west. The contamination had been discovered when the article was actually being eaten. The Public Analyst, on examination, stated that in his opinion the foreign body had been baked in the tart. Legal proceedings were taken against the firm concerned and a conviction was recorded.

(iv) Educational Activities

Posters and leaflets supplied by the Central Office of Information were issued to establishments from time to time and advice was given wherever possible.

(v) Condemned Food

Unsound or diseased meat is sent to a processing plant at Southampton, where it is sterilised and manufactured into fertiliser and other products. Condemned canned foods are dealt with by incineration at the Council's Refuse Tip. The Meat (Staining and Sterilisation) Regulations, 1960, require all butchers' meat and imported meat which is unfit for human consumption to be sterilised, and all knacker meat to be stained and sterilised before entering the chain of distribution.

(vi) Special Examination of Large Food Consignments.

No large consignment of food has necessitated special examination or large scale condemnation.

(vii) Ice Cream (Heat Treatment) Regulations 1947 - 1952.

No ice cream is produced in the Borough of Launceston. Forty-five samples of ice cream, all of the hot mix type, were submitted for bacteriological examination during the year. Thirty-nine samples were classified as Provisional Grade 1, six as Provisional Grade 2 and none in the lower grades of three and four. It is desirable that 80% of samples should be classified in Grades 1 and 2, not more than 20% in Grade 3, none should fall into Grade 4. The results obtained will be seen to be satisfactory.

(viii) Food Hygiene Regulations 1955 - 1956

Frequent inspections of all food establishments in the Borough were carried out during the year.

(ix) Milk and Cream

There are six registered dairies in the Borough. Milk is delivered from two of these and from the local depot of another large dairying firm operating in the south-west.

Milk (Special Designations) Regulations 1963

Information was received from the County Medical Officer that one sample of Untreated Milk and nine samples of Pasteurised Milk were taken during the year and were reported as "Satisfactory."

The following samples of milk were taken by this Department during the year :-

Untreated Milk

Passed Methylene
Blue Test

5

Failed Methylene
Blue Test

1

Passed Biological Test
(i.e. for T.B.)

6

Failed Biological Test

-

Passed Brucella Abortus Ring Test

4

Failed Brucella Abortus Ring Test

-

Pasteurised

Twenty-seven samples of Pasteurised Milk were taken and all passed both the Methylene Blue test and the Phosphatase tests.

(x) Unsound Food

Twenty-five visits were made in order to condemn unsound foodstuffs.

(xi) Slaughterhouses and Meat Inspection

100% meat inspection was carried out during 1965 with the exception of one week when due to sickness this proved impossible.

There was a decrease of 5,170 in the number of animals slaughtered in 1965 indicating a fall of 6.5% compared with the 1964 figure and representing a total kill of 75,402 animals made up as follows :-

Bovines	5403 increased by 296 or 5.8%
Calves	1959 decreased by 285 or 12.7%
Sheep	46695 decreased by 3190 or 6.4%
Pigs	21345 decreased by 1991 or 8.6%

75402 decreased by 5170 or 6.5%

Cysticercus Bovis

There were seven cases of infestation by *Cysticercus Bovis* detected during 1965, as against four in 1964. Six of the animals affected were cows. This parasite, developmental stage of the human tapeworm, was found in the cheek muscles of six of the animals, the tongue and the thoracic viscera were the other two sites affected.

Affected carcasses are totally condemned if the condition is generalised, otherwise they are treated by three weeks refrigeration at a temperature not exceeding 20 degrees Fahrenheit. In all cases detected during the year, the lesions were localised, and only the organ or part affected was condemned.

Tuberculosis

No case of Bovine Tuberculosis occurred during the year. The incidence of Tuberculosis in Pigs fell from 1.95% in 1964 to 1.5% in 1965.

Slaughtering Licences

Twenty-eight licences to slaughter animals were granted during the year.

Diseases of Animals Act

No diseases notifiable under the Diseases of Animals Act occurred during the year.

For details of animals inspected and condemned see Table IV.

THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE FACTORIES ACT 1961

Classified List of Registered Factories at 31.12.65.

	<u>Power</u>	<u>Non-Power</u>	<u>Building Operations</u> <u>Electrical Stations</u> <u>Institutions, etc.</u>
Agricultural Implement Repairs	3	-	
Bakehouses	1	-	
Cabinet Making	1	-	
Cellulose Spraying	1	-	
Dresses and Millinery	1	1	
Egg Grading and Packing	1	-	
Electrical and Radio Repairs	2	-	
Gas Holder	1	-	
Hide Salting and Dressing	-	1	
Joinery	6	1	
Laundry	2	-	
Letter Press Printing	2	-	
Monumental Mason	1	-	
Motor Body Painting	1	-	
Motor Body Builders	1	-	
Motor Vehicle Repairs	14	-	
Provender	1	-	
Photographer	1	-	
Poultry Slaughterhouses	1	-	
Radio Repairs	1	-	
Rope Splicing	-	1	
Sawmills	1	-	
Seed Dressing	1	-	
Sausage Manufacturers	3	-	
Television Repairs	2	-	
Upholstery	1	-	
Watch and Clock Repairs	2	-	
Wool Grading	1	-	
Electrical Stations			1
Building Operations			6
Slaughterhouses			1
<hr/>			
	53	4	8
<hr/>			

Prescribed Particulars on the Administration of the Factories Acts, 1961 are attached as an appendix to this report in accordance with Circular 1/60 of the Ministry of Health

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER
DISEASES

The infectious diseases which are statutorily notifiable to the Medical Officer of Health are the following :- Smallpox, cholera, diphtheria, membranous croup, erysipelas, scarlet fever, typhus fever, typhoid fever, paratyphoid fever, relapsing fever, plague, ophthalmia neonatorum, acute primary pneumonia, acute influenzal pneumonia, whooping cough, measles, acute encephalitis, meningococcal infection, anthrax, food poisoning, poliomyelitis, tuberculosis, malaria, dysentery, puerperal pyrexia and leprosy.

The monthly incidence of infectious disease is shown in Table III.

Smallpox. No case was notified during the year, in the course of which 61 primary vaccinations and 8 re-vaccinations were carried out.

Diphtheria. No case of diphtheria was notified during the year.

Sixty-eight children received a complete course of immunisation against diphtheria during the year, the triple antigen against diphtheria, whooping cough and tetanus being used in almost all cases. 115 children received a booster dose.

Measles. Fourteen cases of measles were notified during the year.

Whooping Cough. One case of whooping cough was notified during the year.

Poliomyelitis. No case of this infection was notified during the year, in the course of which 89 persons received a complete course of oral vaccination.

Dysentery. There was a sharp outbreak of this infection in the last quarter of the year. The dysentery was the relatively mild variety known as Sonne dysentery, the causative organism being *Shigella Sonnei*.

The first case, a child attending Launceston C.P.School, was notified in the middle of September, and was admitted to the isolation hospital. Investigations into the source of the infection in this case were negative. No further cases were notified until the beginning of October, when a number of children attending the same school developed symptoms, subsequently proved bacteriologically to be due to this organism. Further cases developed in this school and others, and among the general population of the town. In all, 140 cases were notified in October, 70 in November and 8 in December, and the outbreak involved also the surrounding rural area. 61 of the cases occurred in children attending Launceston C.P.School, while 23 were affected in Launceston V.P.School. Cases in senior school children were almost all in family contacts of cases among primary school children and were not numerous. Three canteen workers in Launceston C.P.School were affected, but appeared to have contracted the infection from cases among the pupils. In fact, spread by articles of food and drink did not appear to occur, and the infection seemed to spread by direct contact.

The measures of control involved the follow-up of notified cases, of school absentees and of contacts, with submission of specimens for bacteriological examination. While, in the early stages of the epidemic, these specimens were sent for confirmation of the diagnosis, this practice was discontinued when the nature of the epidemic was established, and subsequently was carried out as a test of cure and of freedom from infection. Routine bacteriological checks of school staffs, including canteen workers, and of school milk and the water supply were carried out, with negative results.

To meet the possible danger of spread by food workers who might contract the infection, the managements of local food and catering establishments were informed by letter of the nature of the epidemic, and were reminded of the obligations which the Food Hygiene Regulations place on food handlers with regard to infectious disease. The degree of co-operation by the trade was impressively good.

Information on the types of antibiotic preparations specifically effective against the organism responsible for this epidemic was provided by the Public Health Laboratory, and was passed on to the local doctors. This enabled vigorous and efficient treatment to be carried out.

Infected children and adults were excluded from school and work for treatment. Children, and adults not involved in food handling, were allowed to return after one negative bacteriological report, while infected food handlers were excluded until three successive negative bacteriological reports were received after treatment. Family contacts of cases were also excluded until a negative bacteriological report was received. It is of interest to record that these measures involved the submission of almost 700 specimens to the Public Health Laboratory, Plymouth. Dr.C.H.Jellard, Director of the Laboratory, and his staff gave a willing service seven days a week, and much valuable advice and help which were greatly appreciated.

The source of the original infection was not discovered, in spite of the widespread investigations. This was almost certainly some person who was excreting the organisms, possibly having had no symptoms, or an unrecognised attack. The possibility of a connection with a similar outbreak in the Falmouth area during the summer was suspected, but could not be proved.

Mention must be made of the considerable help given by the Press in the outbreak, by the publication of essential information which did much to enlist the co-operation of the public.

Food Poisoning. No cases were notified during the year.

Tuberculosis.

	<u>Males</u>		<u>Females</u>	
	<u>Pul.</u>	<u>Non.Pul.</u>	<u>Pul.</u>	<u>Non.Pul.</u>
Cases on Register				
31.12.64	9	3	11	3
No. of cases notified				
during year	1	-	-	-
Cases restored	-	-	-	-
Inward Transfers	-	-	1	-
Cases Removed	2	-	1	1
<hr/>				
Total on Register				
31.12.65	8	3	11	2
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No action was found to be necessary under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, in connection with persons suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis employed in the milk trade, or under Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936, which deals with the compulsory removal to hospital of persons suffering from tuberculosis.

The Regional Hospital Board is responsible for treatment of Tuberculosis patients and the County Council for the prevention of spread of the disease and after-care of the patient.

Out-patients and contacts are seen by the Chest Physician at the Chest Clinic at Launceston Hospital. The County Council Tuberculosis Health Visitor attends the Clinic, follows up the patients in their homes, traces contacts and sources of infection and thus acting as a most valuable and essential "liaison officer" between the curative and preventive services, bridges a most alarming administrative gap. All susceptible contacts of known cases in the Borough are offered B.C.G. vaccination and the majority avail themselves of this method of protection.

The County Council's scheme for B.C.G. vaccination of susceptible Secondary School children was continued during the year, again with an excellent response.

OTHER DISEASES

Cancer of the Lung. During 1965, the deaths of two males due to cancer of the lung were recorded, out of a total of thirteen cancer deaths. Since 1949, there have been 83 male and 99 female deaths from all forms of cancer. Of these, fifteen male and seven female deaths have been due to cancer of the lung.

Cancer of the Cervix. This type of cancer affects women, and affects the neck of the womb. Of recent years, a method has been evolved for the early detection of the condition before it reaches the cancerous stage, and when

it is readily responsive to treatment. This process of early identification is known as cervical cytology, and involves the taking of smears from the tissue of the neck of the womb, which are examined microscopically at the Pathological Laboratory. The actual taking of the smear is completely painless.

In November, the County Council started a Cervical Cytology Clinic at Launceston to serve the whole of Health Area 6, which includes the Borough. Two sessions were held before the end of the year, and the service has continued during the present year. There is no doubt that this service will prove of inestimable value, in the saving of life and the prevention of needless pain and invalidism.

TABLE I

TUBERCULOSIS

Age and Sex Distribution of Cases and Deaths - 1965.

<u>Age Groups</u>	<u>New Cases</u>				<u>Deaths</u>			
	<u>Pul.</u>		<u>Other</u>		<u>Pul.</u>		<u>Other</u>	
	<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>
0 -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15 -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
20 -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
25 -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
35 -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
45 -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
55 -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
65 and over	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Age unknown	..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

TABLE II

VITAL STATISTICS

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>POPULATION (Estimated)</u>	<u>BIRTHS</u>		<u>DEATHS</u>			
		<u>Number</u>	<u>Crude Rate</u>	<u>Under 1 year</u>		<u>All ages</u>	
				<u>Number</u>	<u>Rate</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Rate</u>
1961	4420	64	14.479	1	15.62	82	18.55
1962	4510	68	15.077	1	14.70	77	17.073
1963	4510	62	17.96	-	-	81	17.96
1964	4550	67	14.725	1	14.92	70	15.384
1965	4570	84	18.599	-	-	105	22.97

TABLE III

Monthly Incidence of Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis)

	<u>Jan.</u>	<u>Feb.</u>	<u>Mar.</u>	<u>Apr.</u>	<u>May</u>	<u>June</u>	<u>July</u>	<u>Aug.</u>	<u>Sept.</u>	<u>Oct.</u>	<u>Nov.</u>	<u>Dec.</u>	<u>Total</u>
Dysentery	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	140	70	8	219
Whooping Cough	-	1	-	-	..	-	-	-	..	-	-	-	1
Measles	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	3	8	1	14
	-	1	-	-	1	-	1	-	1	143	78	9	234

TABLE IV

MEAT INSPECTION

Carcases and offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part

	Cattle excl. Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep	Pigs	Horses
No. killed	3173	2230	1959	46695	21345	-
No. inspected	3173	2230	1928	46441	21345	-
<u>All disease except Tuberculosis and Cysticercosis.</u>						
Whole carcasses condemned	7	21	19	100	32	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	290	947	18	5793	1159	-
% of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticercosis	9.3%	43.4%	1.9%	12.6%	17.9%	-
<u>Tuberculosis only</u>						
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-	2	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	336	-
% of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	-	-	-	-	1.5%	-
<u>Cysticercosis</u>						
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	1	6	-	-	-	-
Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigeration	1	6	-	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Unfit meat rejected	31 Tons 13 Cwts. 2 Qtrs. 11 lbs.					

TABLE V

NUISANCES AND DEFECTS REMEDIED DURING THE YEAR

	<u>INFORMAL NOTICES SERVED</u>	<u>COMPLIED WITH</u>
Defective Drainage	9	9
General Defects	4	2
Insanitary Conditions	8	8
Obstructed Drainage	1	1
Food Hygiene Regulations	10	10
Smoke Abatement Act	2	2

Total Number of Complaints Received 47

Total Number of Visits paid 1425

APPENDIX

FACTORIES ACT, 1961

Prescribed Particulars on the Administration of the
Factories Act, 1961

Part 1 of the Act

1 - INSPECTIONS for purposes of provision as to health

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	4	4	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	53	40	7	-
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises)	8	12	-	-
Total	65	56	7	-

2 - Cases in which DEFECTS were found

PARTICULARS	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred		
			To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (Section 1)	3	3	-	3	-
Overcrowding (Section 2)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature (Section 3)	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation(Section 4)	2	2	-	1	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (Section 6)	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences (Section 7)	-	-	-	-	-
(a) Insufficient	-	-	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	1	1	-	-	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to outwork)	1	1	-	-	-
TOTAL	7	7	-	4	-

PART VIII of the Act

OUTWORK

(Sections 133 and 134)

Nature of work	Section 133			Section 134		
	No. of workers in August List required by Section 133(1) (c)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council	No. of prosecu- tions for failure to supply lists	No. of instances of work in unwhole- some premises	Notices served	Prose- cutions
Wearing apparel, Making, etc.	1	-	-	-	-	-

